

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-52. (Cancelled)

52. (Allowed) A method of delivering progesterone to a female patient, comprising placing in the vagina of said patient a tablet comprising micronized progesterone, a non-effervescent excipient or diluent, and an effervescent, and retaining said tablet in said vagina for a time efficacious to deliver said progesterone to said patient.

53. (Allowed) A method according to claim 52, wherein said tablet contains at least 50 mg of micronized progesterone.

54. (Allowed) A method according to claim 53, wherein said placing of tablet is effected as part of a twice-daily dosing regimen.

55-105. (Cancelled)

106. (Allowed) A method of delivering progesterone to a female patient, comprising placing in the vagina of said patient a tablet wherein said tablet is prepared by the steps of:

(i) mixing water with micronized progesterone to obtain wetted micronized progesterone in the absence of a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent; and drying said wetted micronized progesterone to form dry micronized progesterone;

(ii) mixing said dry micronized progesterone with
(a) a pharmaceutically acceptable non effervescent excipient
or diluent and
(b) an effervescent to form a mixture; and
(iii) forming a tablet by direct compaction of said mixture,
the tablet having a T_{\max} upon disintegration of at least about three hours;
and retaining said tablet in said vagina for a time efficacious to deliver said progesterone to said
patient.

107. (Allowed) A method according to claim 106, wherein said tablet contains at least 50
mg of micronized progesterone.

108. (Allowed) A method according to claim 106, wherein said placing of tablet is effected
as part of a twice daily dosing regimen.

109-112. (Cancelled)